

As a taxpayer, I think the issue of violence on television is a topic rife with hypocrisy, and plain ignorance.

There are people, myself included, who aren't fans of violent television. However, just because I don't like what's on television doesn't mean that other people dislike it. It is up to me to decide what *I* and (were I a parent) what my children watch. It should not be an issue for me to dictate what you, my neighbors, or the rest of this fine country get to view.

Is there too much violent content on television? Apparently not - by the simple virtue that if there's violence on television it must be what people are choosing to watch.

What's a better indicator for what the general public wants to see?

A handful of people complaining that they stumbled accidentally onto a violent show, or protesting its very existence, or the fact that these shows are immensely popular?

If the FCC is to abide by the will of the majority of America, they need to weight the popularity of violent programming at LEAST as much as they weigh the complaints they receive.

Often, in the news, you can hear a derisive sneer from a newscaster, when they speak of a complaint against violent shows, they mention the popularity of that show as if it's a negative aspect.

If other Americans want to watch this kind of entertainment, on broadcast or cable, why should *I* interfere? Why, when I can just as easily change the channel to another show, turn off the TV and read a book, or spend time engaged in other activities.

As for hypocrisy - my beef here is with News programs. The same shows that decry *fictional* violence, often get their largest ratings from *REAL* violence. Murder, war, rape, assault - these are the VERY topics that headline news programs all across the country on a daily basis. The motto is "if it bleeds it leads."

Personally, as much as I don't like fictional violence on television - I'm even less a fan of the daily bombardment of real violence delivered under the guise of news. Murder and violent crimes are significantly DOWN over the last decade, and yet coverage of these kinds of violent crime on the news have increased by almost 600%.

Is there too much violence on television? That's a subjective question at best - and if the answer, for you, is yes, then turn off the television. You're not forced to watch television, you're not forced to watch violent programming. There are always alternatives, and with that in mind, leave programming to be decided by the open market.

Shows that are popular, despite their content, will proliferate. Shows that aren't, will fall by the wayside.